COUNCIL OF PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS ON FEDERAL STATISTICS
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LINKING YOU WITH A THRIVING STATISTICAL SYSTEM

Federal statistics and statistical series create measurements and indicators of critical importance to a wide swath of social scientific research. The professional association members of COPAFS recognize the need to assure ongoing support of federal statistical agencies and to build strong bridges between those who use federal statistics and the agencies that produce and make them available for research. In recent years, it has also become important to pay attention to the availability for linkage and research of federal administrative records (reporting data, as from the Federal Election Commission, and data collected to administer federal programs, as for participants in welfare programs).

What we do

> Hold public meetings at which statistical agency representatives review their plans and priorities, describe new products and methodologies, and explain the basis and need for changes, to an audience of federal statistics users who can ask detailed questions, bring up user issues, and provide direct input and feedback to the agencies;

> Organize communications networks of specific types of data users. For example, "Friends of Labor Statistics;"

> Hold special fora on emerging issues, such as "Big Data" and official statistics, and data linkage for program evaluation; and

> Educate public policy and program decision makers about the uses and value of federal statistics.

Why we do it

> Federal statistics are public goods, available to all without denigration of value to any. But, as such, they lack collective champions;

> Federal statistical programs have been poorly funded in recent years, several of them losing the purchasing power necessary to continue core data collection activities;

> Feelings among some current political leaders that survey data collection is intrusive and endangers personal privacy is threatening the integrity of major statistical efforts, including the Census Bureau's American Community Survey; and

> Funding and political factors affect availability, access to, and quality of federal data for social science research.

COPAFS' activities are supported by the Professional Association Members and Affiliated Organizations listed on the back of this sheet

Members of the Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics (November 2015)

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American Association for Public Opinion Research (AAPOR)
American Economic Association (AEA)
American Educational Research Association (AERA)
American Psychological Association (APA)
American Sociological Association (AMSOCA)
American Statistical Association (ASA)
Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM)
Association for University Business & Economic Research (AUBER)
Association of Public Data Users (APDU)
International Association for Social Science Information Services & Technology (IASSIST)
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National Association of Forensic Economics (NAFE)
National Association for Public Health Statistics & Information Systems (NAPHSIS)
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